

**Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:00 p.m.  
Oklahoma Department of Libraries  
200 NE 18<sup>th</sup> St, OKC, OK, 73105**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Annette Jacobi called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Roll Call and declaration of a quorum**

Angie Clayton called the roll.

**\*Approval of Minutes**

*Kathy Cronemiller motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Melody Kellogg. Motion passed by acclamation.*

**OKFutures Grant Update**

Oklahoma was not selected to receive a PDG B-5 renewal grant. 46 states were eligible to apply and 20 states were awarded. OPSR's understanding is that it was a very competitive process. We have heard from so many of our partners not only in the state, but out of state who have expressed their disappointment and surprise that Oklahoma was not selected. Oklahoma was celebrated throughout the planning grant for the work we accomplished this year, particularly our Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan. We were hopeful that we would be eligible to apply for renewal grants in the fall with the few states that received planning grants this year. As of right now, the legislation is not written to allow this. Natalie Burns shared that she is working with Sen. Inofe and Rep. Cole to engage them about the importance of these dollars to our state. Debra reminded the board that we were awarded a no cost extension through February. We have a number of projects that are continuing. Several states asked if states not awarded renewal grants could extend their no cost extension and ACF said no. Annette commended the OPSR staff for their hard work completing grant activities and writing the renewal grant. Debra again thanked everyone for their feedback and input throughout the process.

Oklahoma will receive additional federal funding through Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Our federal partners are reminding us that there are new federal dollars coming into the state and some of these dollars might be appropriate to use to accomplish some of our priorities set out in the Strategic Plan. Kay Floyd shared that she is glad that Head Start is eligible for additional funding, but they are concerned about local match, which is 20%.

**Fiscal and Policy Report**

Paul Shinn of the Oklahoma Policy Institute presented the Legal and Financial Analysis that was funded by the OKFutures grant. The goal of this analysis was to provide a report of early childhood legislation, rules and policies with analysis and recommendations for future work. There were many significant findings in the report and it concluded that Oklahoma has built and maintains an effective system of services and supports for young children and their families. However, programs have developed individually with unique funding sources and different, but overlapping goals. As a result the system lacks coordination, common goals, metrics and clarity.

## **Second Regular Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature Update**

Annette shared that she attended the Governor's Summit and that the overall tone is optimistic. A struggle we will face this session is how to face high expectations with less money. Melody seconded this feeling. Annette said compared to the past 10 years, there is a much greater sense of compassion and comradery by legislators.

Shelley said that of course health care is a big topic every year, but the Governor has really prioritized it this year. There has been a working team at the legislature working on recommendations for health care, as well as the governor's staff. They are set to come out with recommendations in the following months.

### **Importance of Census 2020**

The Governor's office wants to be sure that all of us are participating in the census and OPSR wants to be especially mindful that young children are being counted.

### **\*Approval of OPSR Financial Report**

Annette told the board that the executive committee will no longer fall under the Open Meeting Act. In the past, executive committee had approved financials, but moving forward the entire board will examine and approve financials for the sake for transparency.

Will walked the board through the first quarter of FY20 expenditures. These were presented to the board at the last meeting, but due to the new cadence, the board will now need to approve it. Kent Gardner clarified that the board would not vote to approve the budget, but to accept it.

*Kent moved for the first quarter budget to be accepted by the board, seconded by Natalie. Motion passed by acclamation.*

Will then presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financials as of 12/31/19. These numbers are preliminary as invoices for December are still coming in and being processed.

The final document was the OKFutures preliminary expenditures as of December 31, 2019. Debra reminded the board that this grant operates on a calendar year, but due to the no cost extension, we have until the end of February to spend the remaining of our funds. We still have a few hundred thousand dollars to spend. However, OPSR has accomplished its grant goals and was under budget on completing these activities.

### **Foundation Report**

The Foundation met this morning at 11:00 a.m. The Foundation has three new members who joined today. The Foundation is going to have some discussions very soon on how to spend the remaining money and how to accomplish priorities in the Strategic Plan with existing funds. Annie thanked Debra for her leadership.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Debra prepared a written report for the Board. She did share that prior to submitting the grant, OPSR had developed an MOU to be signed by partnering agencies. Not all agencies have signed it and Debra asked the Board if they'd find it beneficial to gather the remaining signatures. Natalie said it would be beneficial to outline that partnership and how we all work together. She also added that it would be beneficial to our legislators and funders to see how all of these organizations can work together to accomplish common goals.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Chairperson Comments**

No chairperson comments.

**Announcements**

Annette encouraged everyone to register for the OKFutures Briefing January 27 at the Embassy Suites.

**Adjourn**

Annette adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.